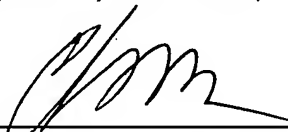


**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 1 - 16 are the pending claims in this application. The claims have been amended as needed to conform to USPTO practice, and no new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher R. Lewis Reg. No. 36,201  
Frank P. Tise Reg. No. 50,379  
Attorney and Agent for Applicants

CRL/lrb

Dated: December 13, 2005

P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980  
(610) 407-0700

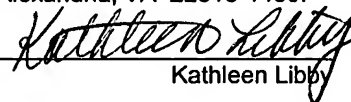
The Commissioner for Patents is hereby  
authorized to charge payment to Deposit  
Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated  
with this communication.

**EXPRESS MAIL**

Mailing Label Number:  
Date of Deposit:

EV 666502137 US  
December 13, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kathleen Libby

LRB\_I:\JMYS\139US\PREAMEND.DOC